NOVEMBER No.56
ANC
PLASTIC MAN
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
A QUALITY COMIC PUBLICATION
10c
THE MAN WHO BROKE THE LAW OF GRAVITY

Draw Bob Hope!

BOB HOPE—
Starring as Eddie Foy in *The Seven Little Foys* —A Paramount Picture, filmed in VistaVision, Color by Technicolor.

TRY FOR A FREE 2-YEAR ART SCHOLARSHIP WORTH $335.00

If you like to draw or sketch, you may have talent worth training. Find out! Enter this contest. You may *win* two years of free training for a fascinating career in art! Imagine yourself a professional artist making money with the pictures you draw. Real money is paid for advertising art, cartooning and magazine illustrating. It's important, satisfying work—and there's room for *you* in the art field. Thousands of artists needed today.

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This is the world's largest home study art school. It's a member of National Home Study Council, Washington, D.C. You may never have heard of *Art Instruction, Inc.*—but for 40 years this school has been quietly discovering beginner-artists and training them at home for profitable careers. Its graduates include many who make good money today.

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JUST DRAW BOB HOPE'S HEAD!

Draw his head 5 inches high. Use pencil only. All drawings must be received by Sept. 30, 1955. None returned. Winner notified. Only amateurs may enter this contest. Our students not eligible. Mail your drawing today!

USE ONE COUPON

—then pass this announcement on to your friends!

Art Instruction, Inc. STUDIO 8905-3
500 South 4th St., Minneapolis 15, Minn.
Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name_____ Age_____
Address_____ Apt._____
City_____ Zone_____
County_____ State_____
Occupation_____ Phone_____

Art Instruction, Inc. STUDIO 8905-1
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City_____ Zone_____
County_____ State_____
Occupation_____ Phone_____

Art Instruction, Inc. STUDIO 8905-2
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Please enter my attached drawing in your contest.
(PLEASE PRINT)

Name_____ Age_____
Address_____ Apt._____
City_____ Zone_____
County_____ State_____
Occupation_____ Phone_____

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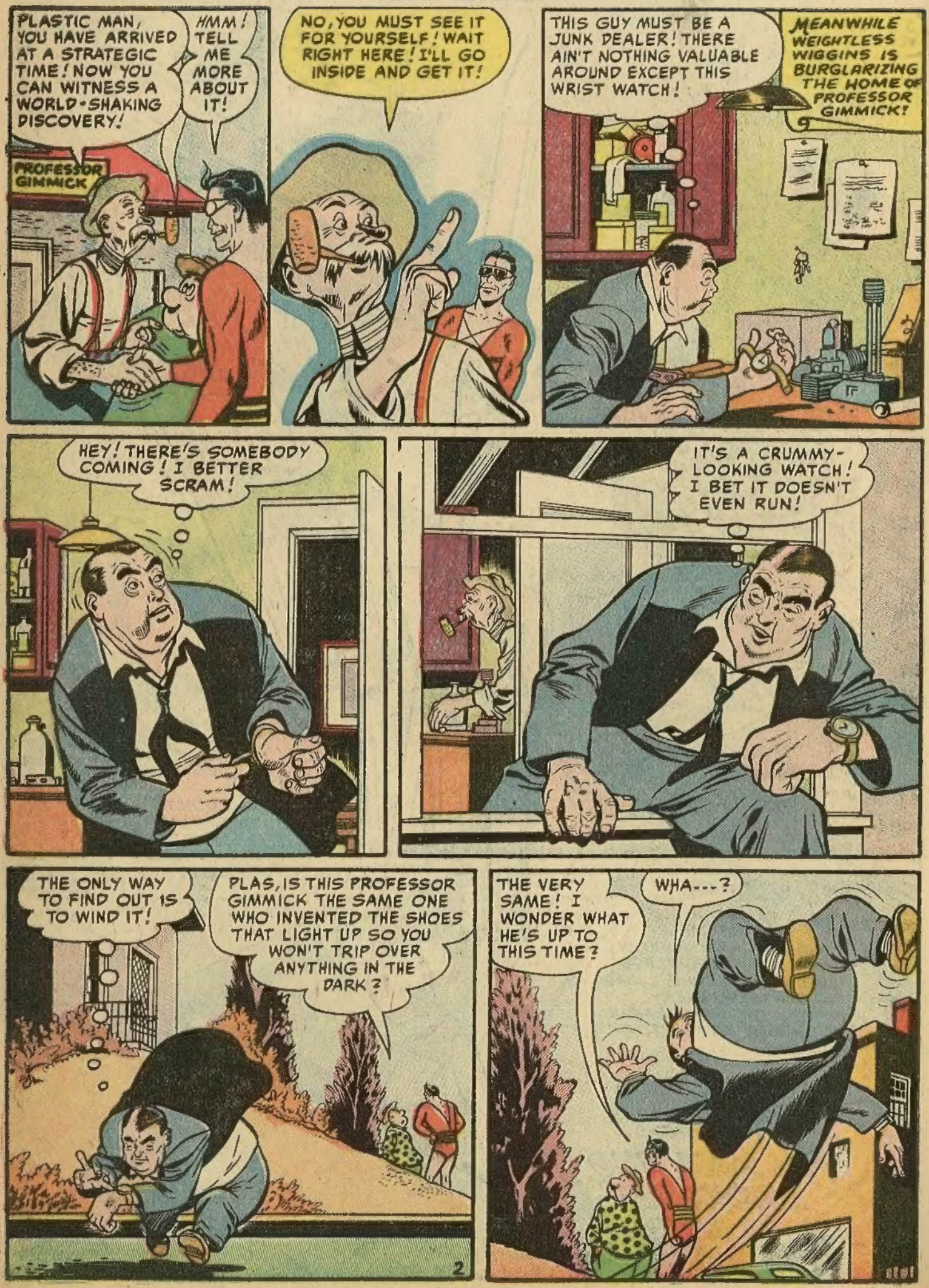
KNOCK HIM DOWN, PLAS! KNOCK HIM DOWN!
PLASTIC MAN
I DON'T UNDERSTAND THIS, WOOZY! HE JUST WON'T FALL DOWN!
IN HIS CAREER AS AS CRIME-FIGHTER, PLASTIC MAN, FEARLESS AGENT OF THE N.B.I., HAS ENCOUNTERED EVERY VARIETY OF LAW-BREAKER: AND CAME OUT VICTORIOUS...
BUT NEVER BEFORE HAS HE COPED WITH THE LIKES OF THE FABULOUS WEIGHTLESS WIGGINS...
THE MAN WHO BROKE THE LAW OF GRAVITY!

1234567890 PLASTIC MAN


PLASTIC MAN, YOU HAVE ARRIVED AT A STRATEGIC TIME! NOW YOU CAN WITNESS A WORLD-SHAKING DISCOVERY!
HMM! TELL ME MORE ABOUT IT!
PROFESSOR GIMMICK
NO, YOU MUST SEE IT FOR YOURSELF! WAIT RIGHT HERE! I'LL GO INSIDE AND GET IT!
THIS GUY MUST BE A JUNK DEALER! THERE AIN'T NOTHING VALUABLE AROUND EXCEPT THIS WRIST WATCH!
MEANWHILE WEIGHTLESS WIGGINS IS BURGLARIZING THE HOME OF PROFESSOR GIMMICK!
HEY! THERE'S SOMEBODY COMING! I BETTER SCRAM!
IT'S A CRUMMY-LOOKING WATCH! I BET IT DOESN'T EVEN RUN!
THE ONLY WAY TO FIND OUT IS TO WIND IT!
PLAS, IS THIS PROFESSOR GIMMICK THE SAME ONE WHO INVENTED THE SHOES THAT LIGHT UP SO YOU WON'T TRIP OVER ANYTHING IN THE DARK?
2
THE VERY SAME! I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO THIS TIME?
WHA---?

I'M FLOATING! THIS IS A VERY CONFUSING STATE OF AFFAIRS!
WELL, LOOK AT THAT! BALLOONS ARE GETTING TO LOOK MORE AND MORE LIKE PEOPLE EVERY DAY!
IT CERTAINLY IS A VERY PECULIAR BALLOON! IT'S WAVING ITS ARMS AND LEGS!
PLASTIC MAN! THE MOST TERRIBLE THING HAS HAPPENED--- MY INVENTION--- IT'S GONE, VANISHED, DISAPPEARED!
THERE, THERE, PROFESSOR! WE'LL HELP YOU FIND IT! WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE?
IT'S MY GRAVITY-DEFYING MACHINE--- AND I NEVER WROTE DOWN THE FORMULA FOR IT!
CALM DOWN AND GIVE US A DESCRIPTION ON IT!
IT WAS NO BIGGER THAN A WRISTWATCH--- IN FACT IT LOOKED LIKE ONE! A MAN WEARING IT CAN RESIST GRAVITY AND FLOAT THROUGH THE AIR!
YOU MEAN WITHOUT A PARACHUTE OR NOTHING? THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE!
THEN WHAT WE SAW WASN'T A BALLOON AT ALL---
THEN YOU SAW THE THIEF! WHY DIDN'T YOU STOP HIM?
BECAUSE WE DIDN'T KNOW, PROFESSOR! BUT WE'LL TRACK HIM DOWN IF IT'S THE LAST THING WE DO!
3

MEANWHILE---
WHEN I WOUND THIS WATCH, I JUST TOOK OFF INTO SPACE! NOW IT'S RUNNING DOWN AND I'M LANDING!
THIS IS THE CRAZIEST WATCH IN THE WORLD! I GOTTA SHOW IT TO THE MOB!
HIYA, WEIGHTLESS!
HEY, FELLERS, I WAS LOOKING FOR YOU! I WANT TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
SO YOU KNOW HOW TO WIND THE WATCH--- SO WHAT?
HE'S WASTING OUR TIME! LET'S BLOW!
WAIT A MINUTE, FELLERS! YOU AIN'T SEEN IT YET---
HEY, LET GO OF ME! WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE? A HELICOPTER OR SOMETHING?
ALL OF A SUDDEN I'M GETTING A VERY TERRIFIC IDEA!
I JUST TOUCHED HIM AND HE STARTED FLOATING WITH ME! IF I TOUCHED AN ARMORED CAR FULL OF MONEY, IT MIGHT FLOAT TOO! THIS IS ONE EXPERIMENT I GOTTA TRY!

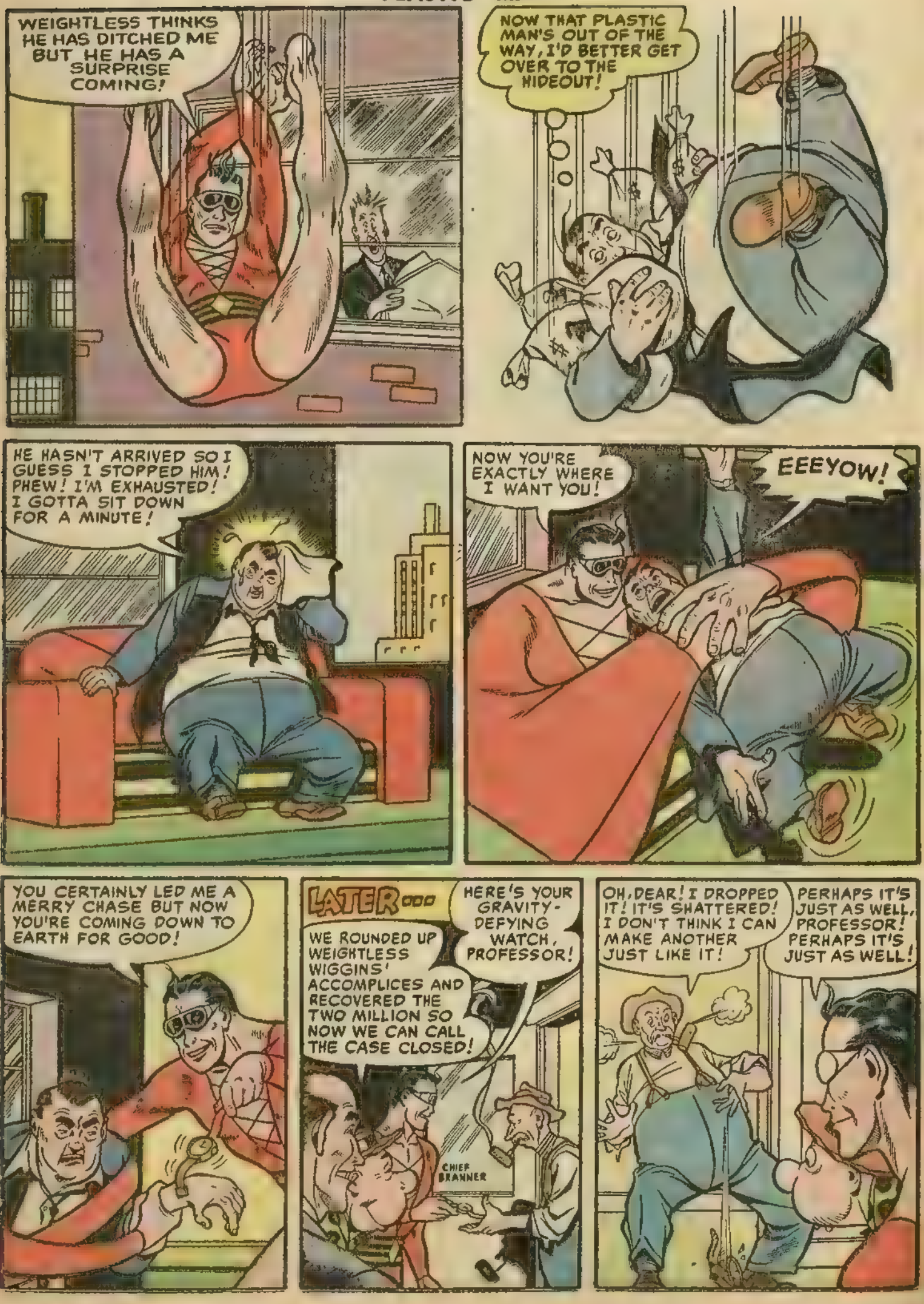
WHEW! THEY COULDA RUN US IN FOR THAT! WE DON'T HAVE A PILOT'S LICENSE!
JUST STICK WITH ME, FELLERS, AND WE'LL BE FLYING HIGH!
NO, THANKS! YOU'RE NOT GOING TO GET ME UP IN THE AIR AGAIN! I DON'T KNOW HOW YOU DID IT BUT I WANT NO PART OF IT!
REMEMBER THE ARMORED TRUCK STICK-UP WE PLANNED FOR THIS AFTERNOON!
SURE I REMEMBER! AIN'T WE BEEN PLANNING IT FOR WEEKS? BUT THAT AIN'T GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH MAKING LIKE A BIRD!
OH, YES IT DOES! THIS OLD WATCH IS GONNA PUT US IN THE BIG TIME AND I'LL TELL YOU HOW...
And AT THAT VERY MOMENT---
TRACKING DOWN THAT GRAVITY-DEFYING GADGET IS GOING TO BE A PRETTY COMPLICATED BUSINESS, WOOZY!
MAYBE WE COULD TRAIN SOME CARRIER PIGEON TO SCOUT AROUND FOR US, HUH, PLAS?
CHIEF BRANNER
THAT IDEA IS STRICTLY FOR THE BIRDS, WOOZY! NOW LET'S GO IN AND SEE WHAT ASSIGNMENT THE CHIEF HAS LINED UP FOR US!
CHIEF BRANN
5
HELLO, PLAS! YOU'VE GOT TO GET OVER TO THE FIRST IRRATIONAL BANK RIGHT AWAY!
WHAT'S UP, CHIEF?
THERE'S GOING TO BE AN ARMORED TRUCK DELIVERY OF TWO MILLION DOLLARS AND I WANT YOU TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING GOES OFF SMOOTHLY!

A SHORT TIME LATER...
OKAY! WE GOT IT REHEARSED NOW! WHEN THAT TRUCK ARRIVES, JUST LEAVE EVERYTHING TO ME!
DON'T WORRY! WE'LL DO JUST LIKE YOU SAID!
THIS IS GONNA HAPPEN SO FAST, THEY WON'T KNOW WHAT HIT THEM!
FIRST IRRATIONAL BANK
BINKS ARMORED DELIVERY
PARDON ME, BUT DO YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TIME?
ON YOUR WAY, MAC! WE CAN'T HAVE ANY LOITERING AROUND HERE!
I'LL BE ON MY WAY IN JUST A MOMENT!
WHAT'S THE TROUBLE?
HEY...
SO LONG, FELLERS, AND THANKS FOR EVERYTHING!
GOSH, IF ONLY I HAD THE WINGS OF AN ANGEL!
THAT'S THE BIRD WHO STOLE THE PROFESSOR'S INVENTION! WE'LL JUST HAVE TO TRAIL HIM UNTIL HE COMES IN FOR A LANDING! COME ON!
THAT'S PLASTIC MAN DOWN THERE! HE AIN'T GONNA SEPARATE ME FROM TWO MILLION BUCKS! AND I KNOW HOW TO STOP HIM FROM DOING IT!

NOW FIRST I REMOVE THESE!
WITH THIS WATCH ON, EVERYTHING I TOUCH SEEMS LIGHT AS A FEATHER...EVEN HEAVY CASH!
NOW I DON'T NEED THIS TRUCK ANYMORE SO I'M GONNA GIVE IT TO PLASTIC MAN!
PLAS, THIS IS AWFUL! CAN'T WE DO SOMETHING?
PATIENCE, WOOZY OLD BOY! WHAT GOES UP MUST COME DOWN!
HEY, LOOK! HE'S JUMPING OFF THE TRUCK!
TIMBER!
HEAD FOR COVER, WOOZY! YOU'RE RIGHT IN THE LINE OF FIRE!
OH, PLAS! I TELL MY FEET TO MOVE AND THEY JUST STAND HERE!
WOOZ, THIS IS NO TIME FOR YOUR MOTOR TO STALL!
KERRASH!

:SOB: :SOB: THE BEST FRIEND I EVER HAD--- :SOB:...THE VICTIM OF A DROP AND RUN DRIVER!
ROOMS FOR RENT
AND HE DIED SAVING MY LIFE! :SOB:
HE DID? TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT!
HE WAS SO BRAVE---SO UNSELFISH AND NOW HE'S GONE!
GONE WHERE?
HUH? PLAS, IT'S YOU! YOU'RE STILL ALIVE!
MORE OR LESS! NOW DRY YOUR TEARS, AND LET'S BE ON OUR WAY!
PLAS, ARE YOU SURE YOU AIN'T A GHOST?
THERE'S OUR BOY OFF IN THE DISTANCE! COME ON, WE'VE GOT TO REACH HIM!
SEE HIM! HE'S NEAR THAT PENTHOUSE!
OH, PLAS, AIN'T YOU HAD ENOUGH FOR ONE DAY? LET'S GO TO A MOVIE OR SOMETHING!
OH-OH! I'M LOSING ALTITUDE! THE WATCH MUST BE RUNNING DOWN! I'D BETTER LAND HERE AND REWIND IT!

DO MY EYES DECEIVE ME? THAT LOOKS LIKE PLASTIC MAN DOWN THERE! THAT GUY MUST HAVE NINE LIVES BUT I ONLY GOT ONE! I GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE FAST!
I'VE GOT A SCORE TO SETTLE WITH YOU!
I WONDER WHAT HE'S GONNA DO?
OOF!
THIS IS GETTING ME NOWHERE FAST! HE JUST WON'T FALL DOWN!
MAYBE YOU COULD PULL HIM DOWN, HUH, PLAS?
GOSH, PLAS, I HOPE IT WORKS!
HERE GOES!
HEY! YOU AIN'T PULLING HIM DOWN! HE'S PULLING YOU UP!
OH-OH! THIS IS ONE TIME THE WATCH IS DOING ME DIRT! NOW I GOT PLASTIC MAN AS A CO-PILOT---
---AND THIS HAS GOTTA BE A SOLO FLIGHT! I'M GONNA DROP HIM LIKE A HOT POTATO!


WEIGHTLESS THINKS HE HAS DITCHED ME BUT HE HAS A SURPRISE COMING!
NOW THAT PLASTIC MAN'S OUT OF THE WAY, I'D BETTER GET OVER TO THE HIDEOUT!
HE HASN'T ARRIVED SO I GUESS I STOPPED HIM! PHEW! I'M EXHAUSTED! I GOTTA SIT DOWN FOR A MINUTE!
NOW YOU'RE EXACTLY WHERE I WANT YOU!
EEEYOW!
YOU CERTAINLY LED ME A MERRY CHASE BUT NOW YOU'RE COMING DOWN TO EARTH FOR GOOD!
LATER ooo
WE ROUNDED UP WEIGHTLESS WIGGINS' ACCOMPLICES AND RECOVERED THE TWO MILLION SO NOW WE CAN CALL THE CASE CLOSED!
HERE'S YOUR GRAVITY-DEFYING WATCH, PROFESSOR!
CHIEF BRANNER
OH, DEAR! I DROPPED IT! IT'S SHATTERED! I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE ANOTHER JUST LIKE IT!
PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL, PROFESSOR! PERHAPS IT'S JUST AS WELL!

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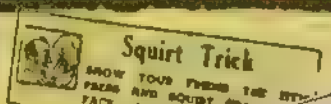

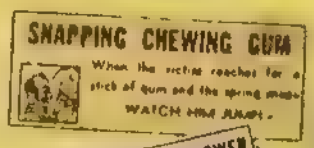

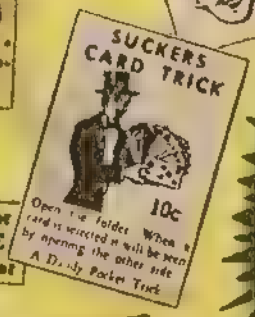

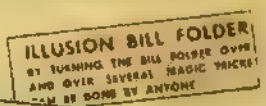

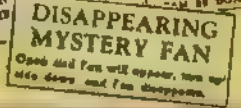

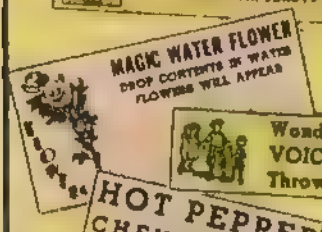

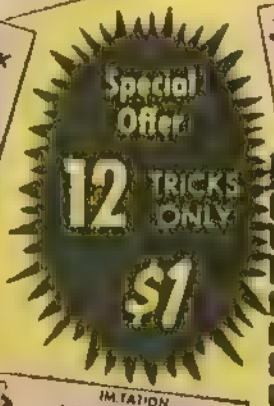

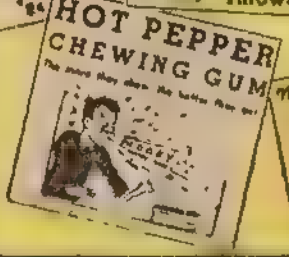

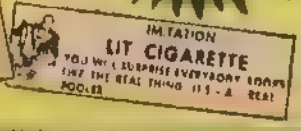

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NAME_____

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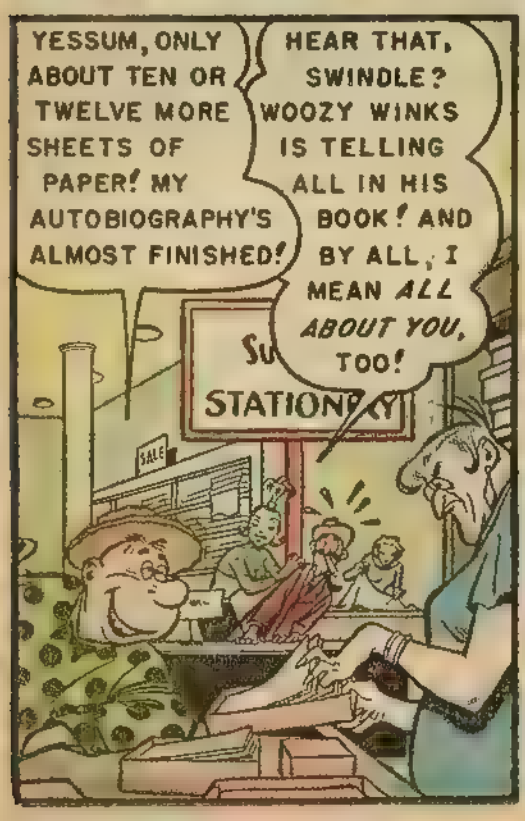
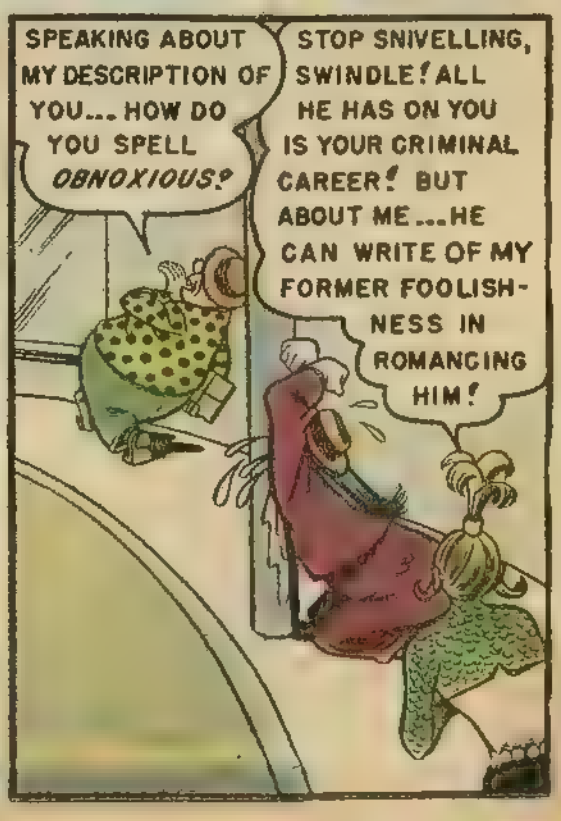
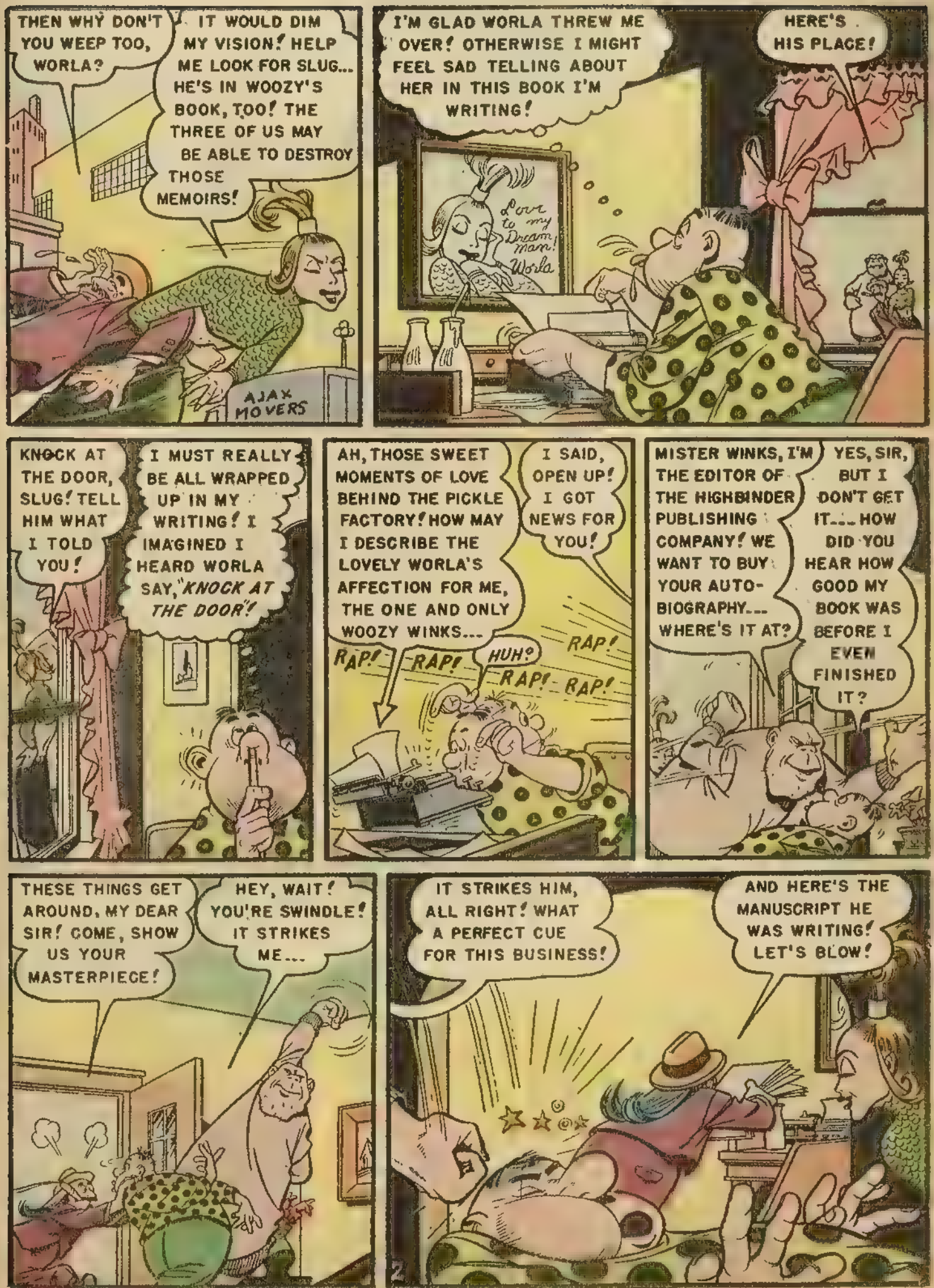
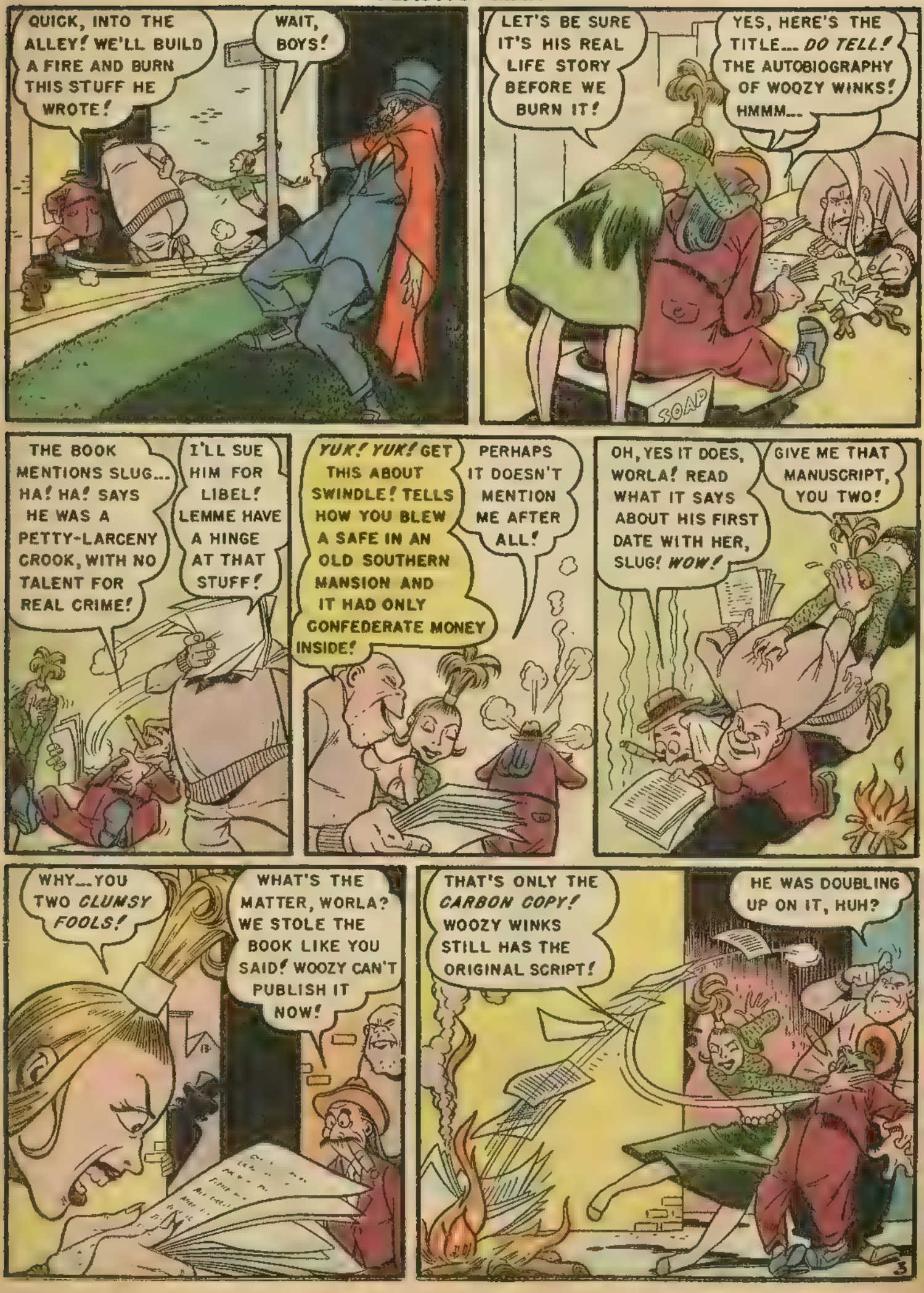
WOOZY
LIFE STORY of Woozy Winks
YES, LADIES AND GENTS! MY BOOK CONTAINS SOME OF THE MOST *LIVING* CHARACTERS IN ALL LITERATURE!
LECTURE TONIGHT 8 PM
Woozy Winks
noted author


HEAR THAT, SWINDLE? WOOZY WINKS IS TELLING ALL IN HIS BOOK! AND BY ALL, I MEAN *ALL ABOUT YOU*, TOO!
YESSUM, ONLY ABOUT TEN OR TWELVE MORE SHEETS OF PAPER! MY AUTOBIOGRAPHY'S ALMOST FINISHED!
STATIONERY
SALE

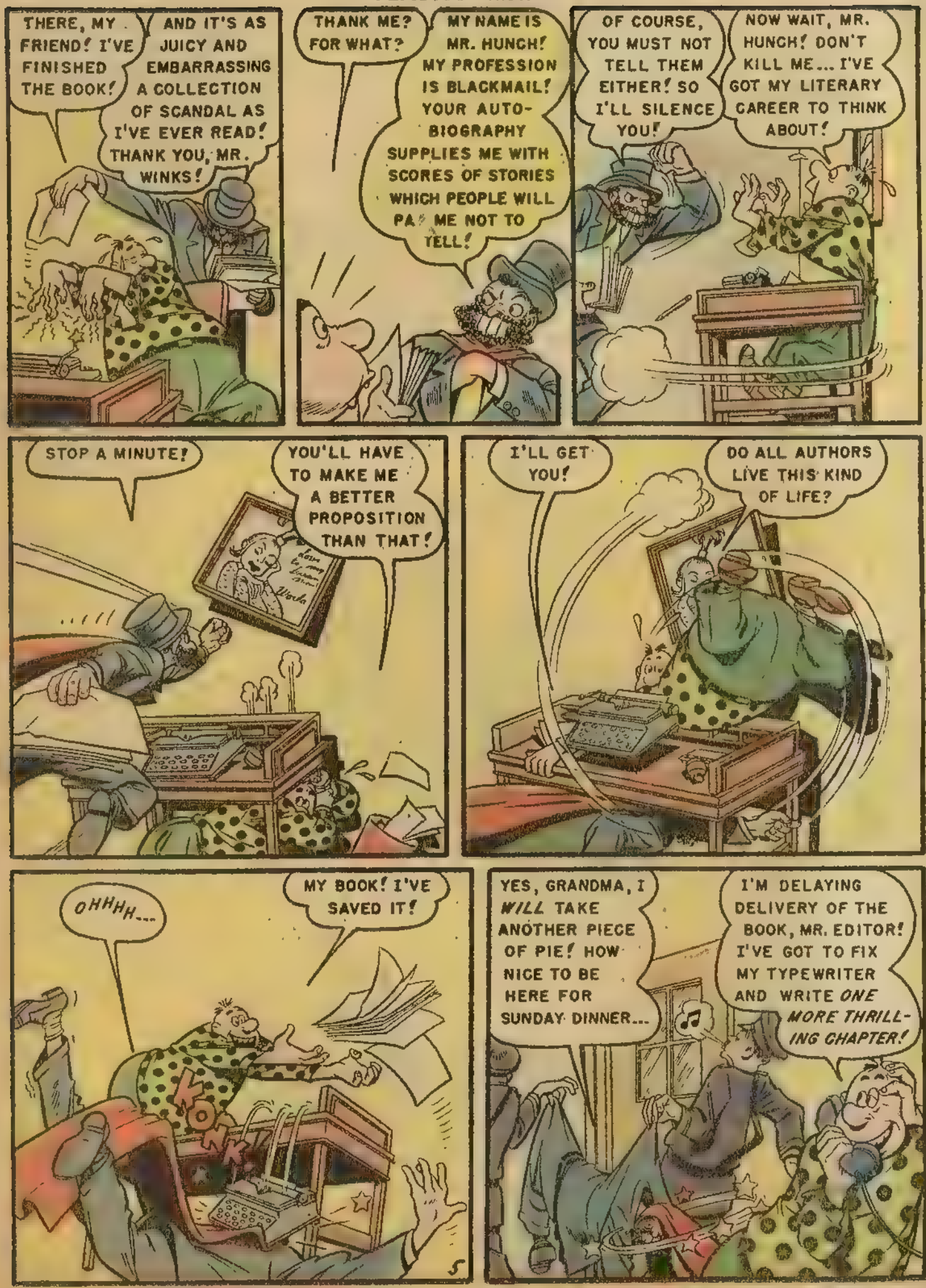
WOOZY! THIS LIFE STORY OF YOURS... DO YOU INCLUDE *MY* CAREER, TOO?
SURE, SWINDLE! YOU MAKE UP ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING CHAPTERS!


SPEAKING ABOUT MY DESCRIPTION OF YOU... HOW DO YOU SPELL *OBNOXIOUS?*
STOP SNIVELLING, SWINDLE! ALL HE HAS ON YOU IS YOUR CRIMINAL CAREER! BUT ABOUT ME... HE CAN WRITE OF MY FORMER FOOLISHNESS IN ROMANCING HIM!

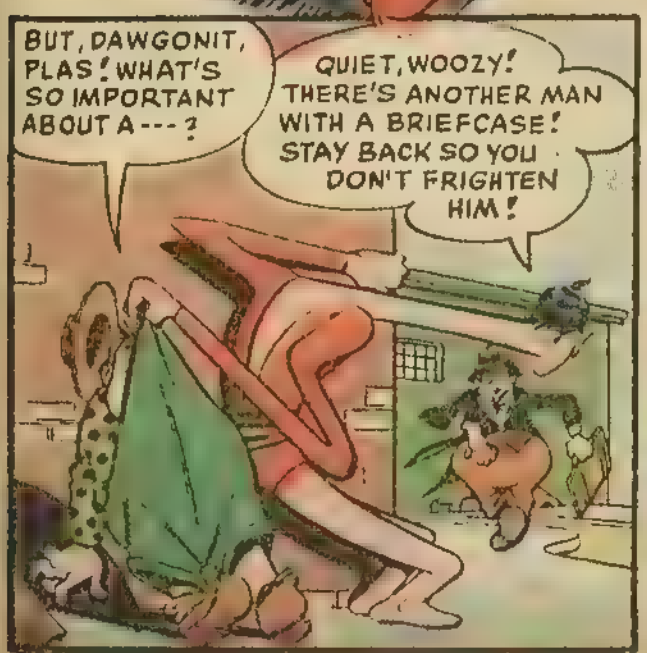

THEN WHY DON'T YOU WEEP TOO, WORLA?
IT WOULD DIM MY VISION! HELP ME LOOK FOR SLUG... HE'S IN WOOZY'S BOOK, TOO! THE THREE OF US MAY BE ABLE TO DESTROY THOSE MEMOIRS!
AJAX MOVERS
I'M GLAD WORLA THREW ME OVER! OTHERWISE I MIGHT FEEL SAD TELLING ABOUT HER IN THIS BOOK I'M WRITING!
Love to my Dream man! Worla
HERE'S HIS PLACE!
KNOCK AT THE DOOR, SLUG! TELL HIM WHAT I TOLD YOU!
I MUST REALLY BE ALL WRAPPED UP IN MY WRITING! I IMAGINED I HEARD WORLA SAY, "KNOCK AT THE DOOR"!
AH, THOSE SWEET MOMENTS OF LOVE BEHIND THE PICKLE FACTORY! HOW MAY I DESCRIBE THE LOVELY WORLA'S AFFECTION FOR ME, THE ONE AND ONLY WOOZY WINKS...
I SAID, OPEN UP! I GOT NEWS FOR YOU!
RAP! RAP! HUH? RAP! RAP! RAP!
MISTER WINKS, I'M THE EDITOR OF THE HIGHBINDER PUBLISHING COMPANY! WE WANT TO BUY YOUR AUTO-BIOGRAPHY... WHERE'S IT AT?
YES, SIR, BUT I DON'T GET IT... HOW DID YOU HEAR HOW GOOD MY BOOK WAS BEFORE I EVEN FINISHED IT?
THESE THINGS GET AROUND, MY DEAR SIR! COME, SHOW US YOUR MASTERPIECE!
HEY, WAIT! YOU'RE SWINDLE! IT STRIKES ME...
IT STRIKES HIM, ALL RIGHT! WHAT A PERFECT CUE FOR THIS BUSINESS!
AND HERE'S THE MANUSCRIPT HE WAS WRITING! LET'S BLOW!
2

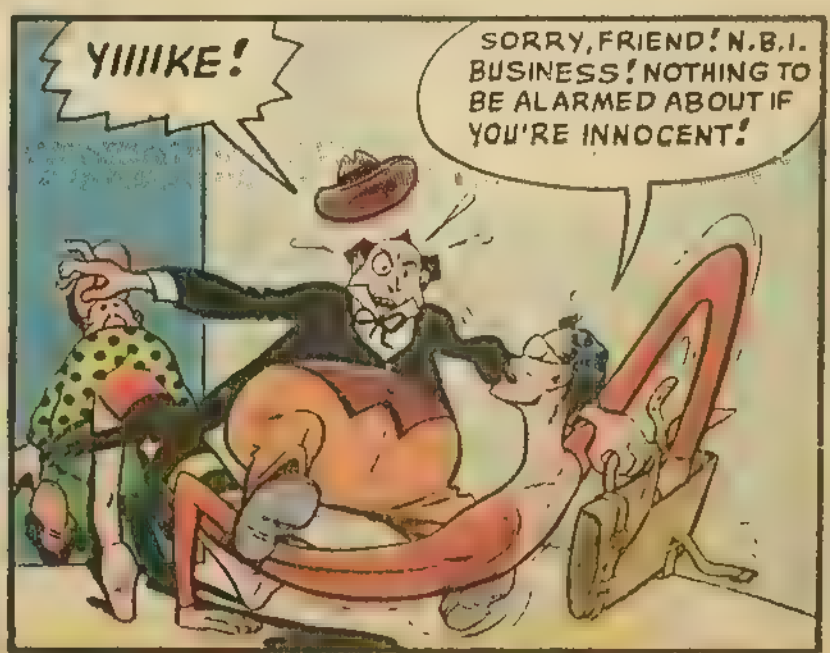

QUICK, INTO THE ALLEY! WE'LL BUILD A FIRE AND BURN THIS STUFF HE WROTE!
WAIT, BOYS!
LET'S BE SURE IT'S HIS REAL LIFE STORY BEFORE WE BURN IT!
YES, HERE'S THE TITLE... DO TELL! THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF WOOZY WINKS! HMMM...
SOAP
THE BOOK MENTIONS SLUG... HA! HA! SAYS HE WAS A PETTY-LARCENY CROOK, WITH NO TALENT FOR REAL CRIME!
I'LL SUE HIM FOR LIBEL! LEMME HAVE A HINGE AT THAT STUFF!
YUK! YUK! GET THIS ABOUT SWINDLE! TELLS HOW YOU BLEW A SAFE IN AN OLD SOUTHERN MANSION AND IT HAD ONLY CONFEDERATE MONEY INSIDE!
PERHAPS IT DOESN'T MENTION ME AFTER ALL!
OH, YES IT DOES, WORLA! READ WHAT IT SAYS ABOUT HIS FIRST DATE WITH HER, SLUG! WOW!
GIVE ME THAT MANUSCRIPT, YOU TWO!
WHY... YOU TWO CLUMSY FOOLS!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, WORLA? WE STOLE THE BOOK LIKE YOU SAID! WOOZY CAN'T PUBLISH IT NOW!
THAT'S ONLY THE CARBON COPY! WOOZY WINKS STILL HAS THE ORIGINAL SCRIPT!
HE WAS DOUBLING UP ON IT, HUH?
3

QUICK! WE MUST GET BACK TO WOOZY'S PLACE!
AND I MUST GET THERE FIRST!
OH! OH! OH!
ARE YOU REVIVING, MR. WINKS? WAKE UP AND LISTEN TO ME!
WORLA SENT HOODLUMS TO STEAL YOUR GREAT WORK, BUT THEY GOT ONLY THE CARBON COPY!
YOU'RE RIGHT, SIR! HERE'S THE ORIGINAL, SAFE AND SOUND!
THEY'RE COMING BACK FOR THE REAL SCRIPT, BUT I'LL PROTECT YOU! FINISH THE BOOK, AT ONCE!
IT'S PRACTICALLY DONE!
CLACKETY CLACK
DON'T STOP TO KNOCK THIS TIME! GO IN THERE, SUBDUE HIM AND GRAB THAT BOOK!
LEAVE IT TO US!
W. WINKS
AH, GENTLEMEN! YOU WANTED SOMETHING, MAYBE?
IT'S *MR. HUNCH!* QUICK, SLUG, GET THAT MACHINE GUN WORKING!
LEAVE! DEPART! VANISH, BEFORE I REALLY GET ROUGH!
IF HUNCH IS PROTECTING WOOZY, I'M THROUGH TRYING TO STEAL THAT BOOK!


THERE, MY FRIEND! I'VE FINISHED THE BOOK!
AND IT'S AS JUICY AND EMBARRASSING A COLLECTION OF SCANDAL AS I'VE EVER READ! THANK YOU, MR. WINKS!
THANK ME? FOR WHAT?
MY NAME IS MR. HUNCH! MY PROFESSION IS BLACKMAIL! YOUR AUTO-BIOGRAPHY SUPPLIES ME WITH SCORES OF STORIES WHICH PEOPLE WILL PAY ME NOT TO TELL!
OF COURSE, YOU MUST NOT TELL THEM EITHER! SO I'LL SILENCE YOU!
NOW WAIT, MR. HUNCH! DON'T KILL ME... I'VE GOT MY LITERARY CAREER TO THINK ABOUT!
STOP A MINUTE!
YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE ME A BETTER PROPOSITION THAN THAT!
I'LL GET YOU!
DO ALL AUTHORS LIVE THIS KIND OF LIFE?
OHHHH...
MY BOOK! I'VE SAVED IT!
KONK
YES, GRANDMA, I *WILL* TAKE ANOTHER PIECE OF PIE! HOW NICE TO BE HERE FOR SUNDAY DINNER...
I'M DELAYING DELIVERY OF THE BOOK, MR. EDITOR! I'VE GOT TO FIX MY TYPEWRITER AND WRITE *ONE MORE THRILLING CHAPTER!*

PLASTIC MAN
PLASTER, FAS! I MEAN---FLASTER, PAS! ULP! RUN FER YOUR LIFE! THEY'RE GAINING ON US!
YOO HOO! WAIT UP, PLASTIC MAN! WE WANNA HELP YOU FIGHT CRIME!
NO, FRIENDS, IT'S NOT A HORRIBLE STRETCH OF YOUR IMAGINATION! PLASTIC MAN WAS CHASING SOME HOT BONDS---WOOZY WINKS WAS CHASING A COOL BLONDE---AND "PITCH" PENNY, KING OF THE SIDEWALK SALESMEN, WAS JUST CHASING A QUICK BUCK! IT WAS MUGS MERKLE, WHO QUICKLY AND CRAFTILY TURNED THAT COMMONPLACE COMBINATION INTO THE DREADFUL---
PLAGUE OF PLASTIC PEOPLE!

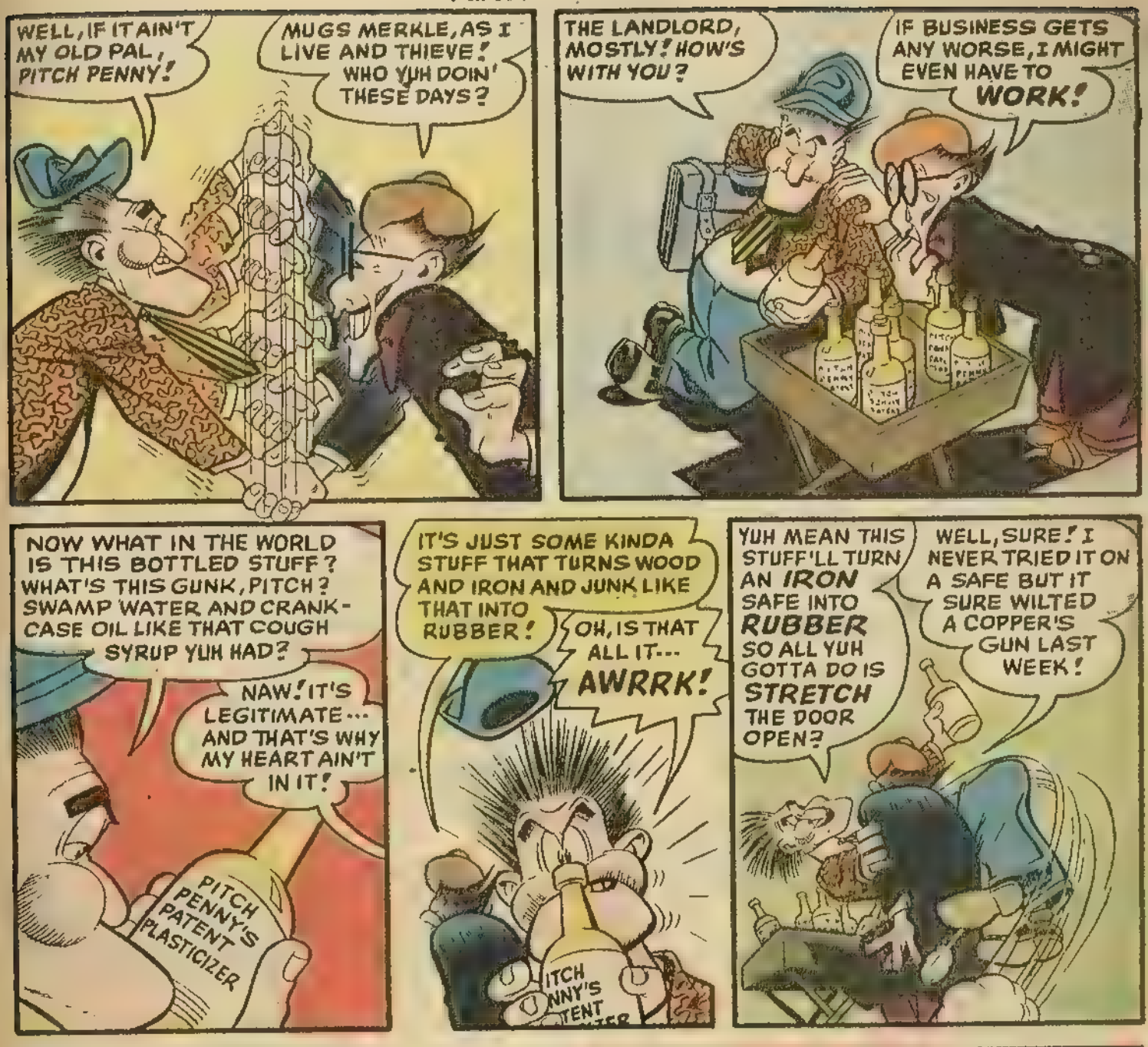

BUT, DAWGONIT, PLAS! WHAT'S SO IMPORTANT ABOUT A---?
QUIET, WOOZY! THERE'S ANOTHER MAN WITH A BRIEFCASE! STAY BACK SO YOU DON'T FRIGHTEN HIM!

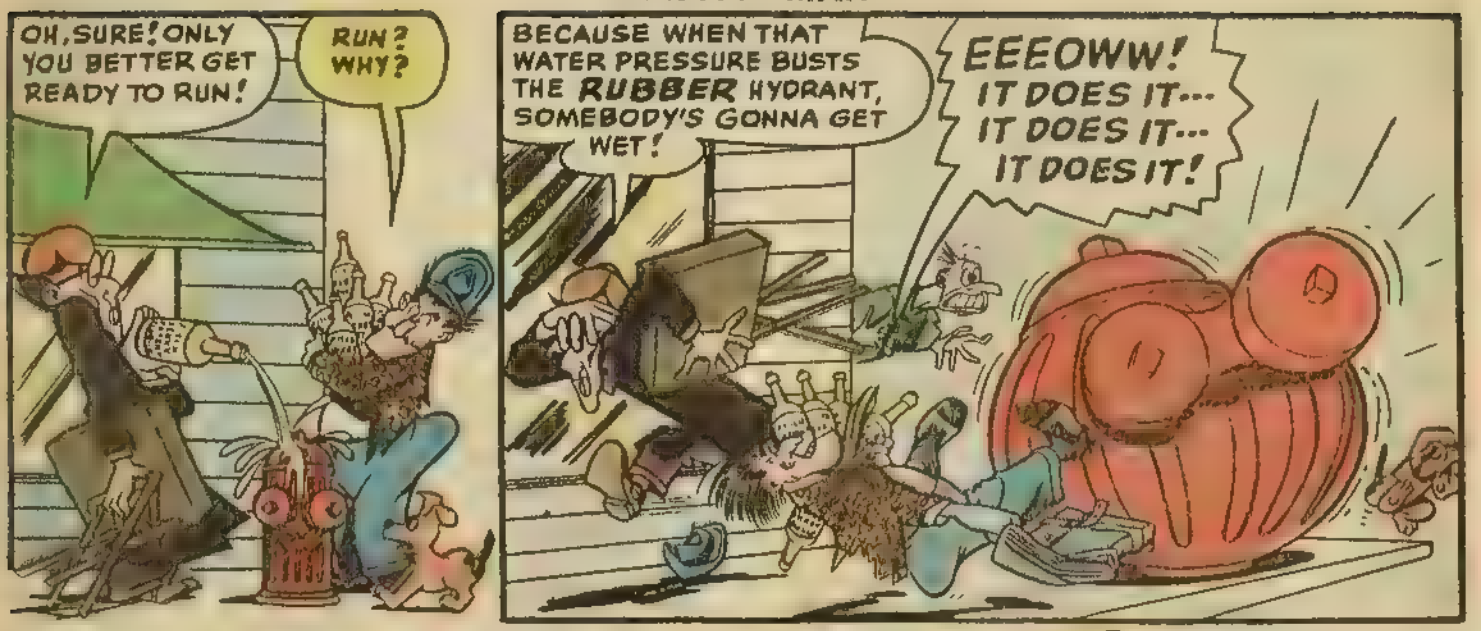

YIIIIKE!
SORRY, FRIEND! N.B.I. BUSINESS! NOTHING TO BE ALARMED ABOUT IF YOU'RE INNOCENT!

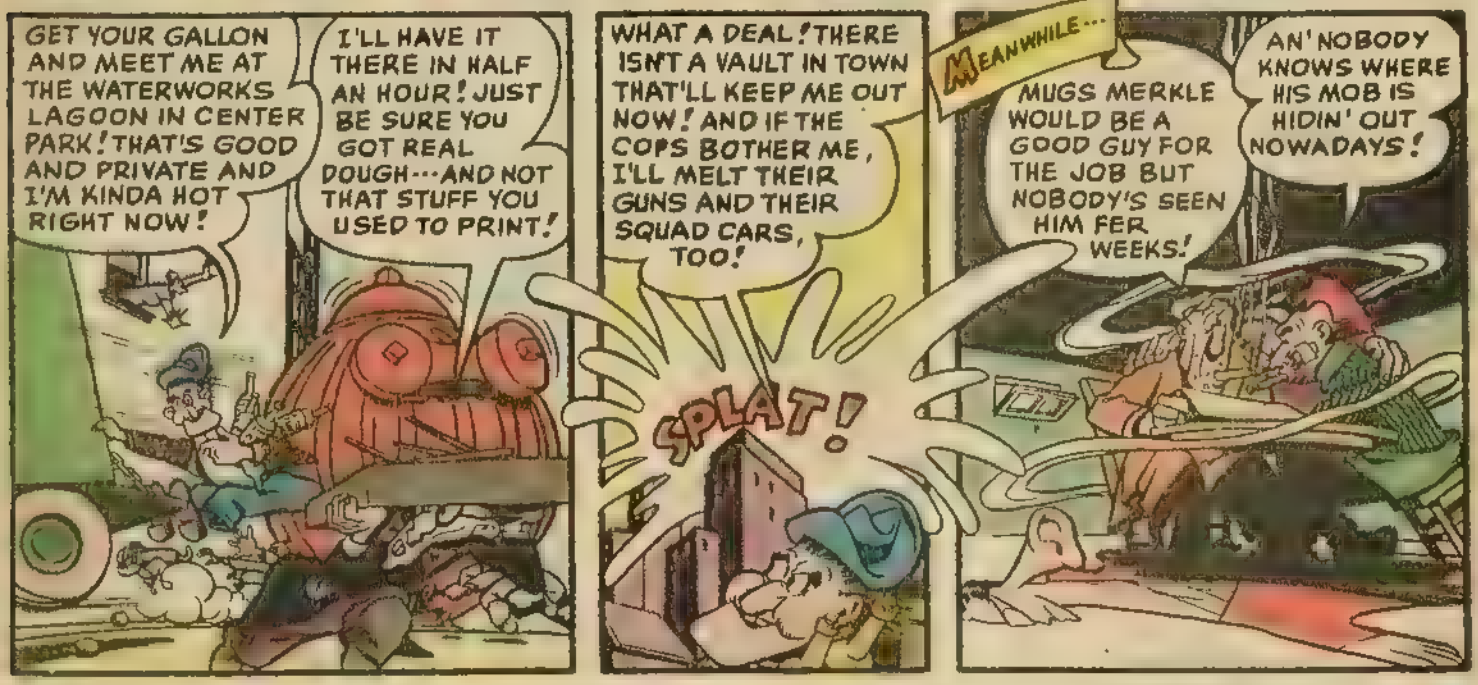
ULP! MY ERROR!
MY LUNCH!
WAIT TILL MY CONGRESS-MAN HEARS ABOUT THIS OUTRAGE!
NOW WILL YOU TELL ME WHAT ALL THIS BRIEF-CASE PEEKIN' IS ABOUT, PLAS? IT AIN'T LIKE YOU TO VIOLATE PEOPLE'S PRIVACY!
AN HOUR AGO SOMEONE HIT A BANK MESSENGER OVER THE HEAD AND WALKED OFF WITH A BRIEFCASE FULL OF BONDS! WE DON'T KNOW WHO!
WHAT DO YOU SUP-POSE MAKES PEOPLE DO THINGS LIKE THAT, PLAS?
SNAP!
PSYCHOLOGISTS TRACE IT TO A BASIC INSECURITY, WOOZY, STEMMING FROM AN UNHAPPY CHILD-HOOD!
EASY, BOYS! ONCE WE MAKE THAT ALLEY, WE'VE GOT COVER CLEAR TO OUR HIDEOUT!
EEEOW! IT'S THAT PLASTIC PERIL AND HIS PUDGY PAL! FATE HAS DESERTED US!
MUGS MERKLE! FANCY MEETING YOU HERE, WEARING A STOLEN BRIEF-CASE AND A GUILTY LOOK!
WILTON'S
DO YOU MIND IF I JUMP TO THE CONCLUSION THAT MY SEARCH FOR THE MISSING BONDS IS AT AN END, MUGS?
YIII! DO SOMETHING, YOU DUMB DOPES!
THEY NEVER LEARN, DO THEY, PLAS?
NOT AT HIM, YOU HAMMERHEADS! IT'S THE FAT GUY WHO ISN'T BULLET-PROOF!
BAM!
2

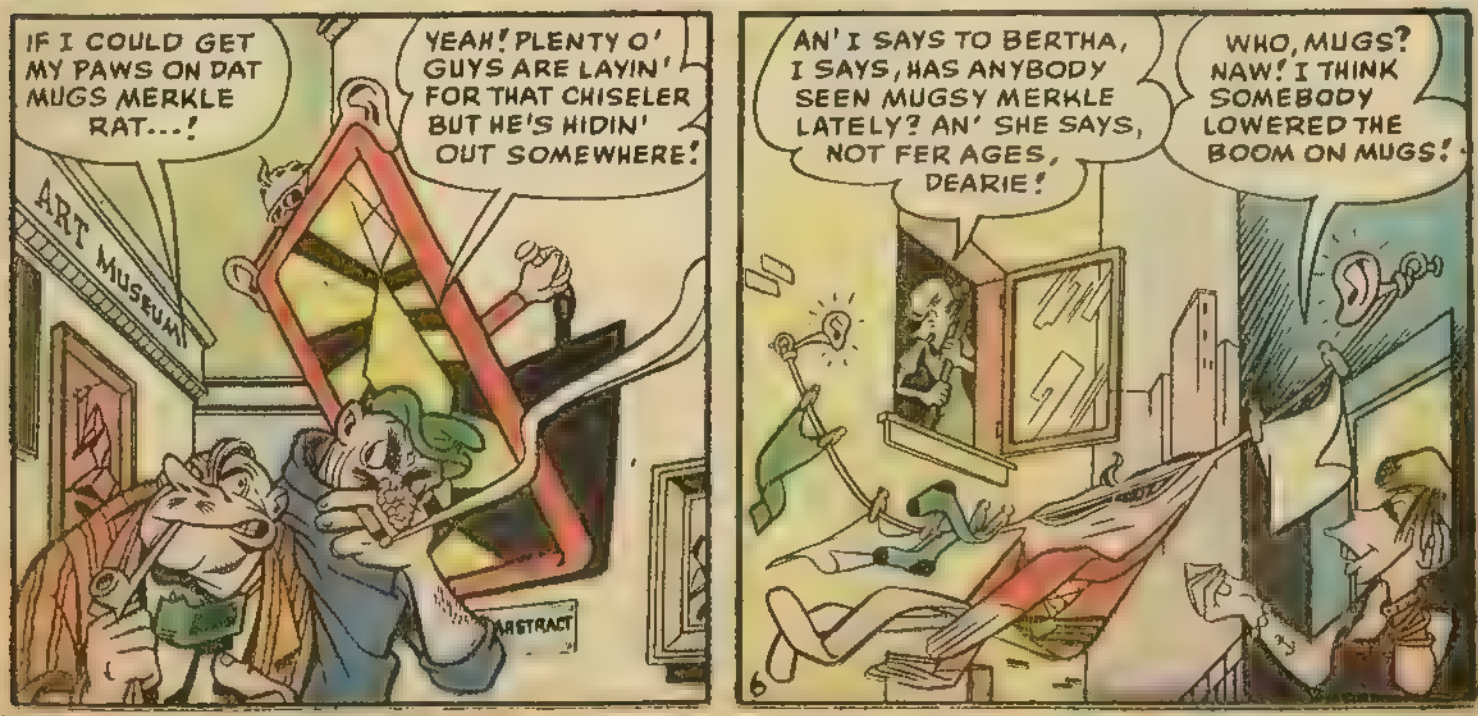
HERE, HERE! YOU'LL HURT SOMEONE IF YOU AREN'T CAREFUL!
KEEP HIS HANDS OCCUPIED, BOYS! I JUST REMEMBERED AN URGENT ENGAGEMENT ELSEWHERE!
I DON'T NEED HANDS TO HANDLE YOU, MUGS!
ADIOS, AMIGOS, AS WE USED TO SAY IN SING SING!
I'LL GET HIM, PLAS! NOBODY CAN CALL ME A FAT TWERP AND GO UNPUNISHED!
RIP!
PUFF! PUFF!
COME BACK AND FIGHT LIKE A MAN!
AW, GO GET LOST, BUTTER-BALL!
EEAHHH! HELP, PLAS! I'M STUCK!
OH, FOR PITY'S SAKE! THIS IS CERTAIN-LY TURNING INTO A FOOLISH FIASCO!
A FINE BUSINESS! MUGS GOT AWAY WITH THE BONDS AND THERE'S NO WAY OF TELLING WHICH TUNNEL HE TOOK!
EITHER DIET OR STAY OUT FROM UNDER CARS, WOOZY!
CAN I HELP IT IF THEY BUILD THESE NEW CARS TOO CLOSE TO THE GROUND?
POP
3

Later...
YOU'VE GOT TO FIND HIM, PLASTIC MAN! WHAT IF WORD LEAKED OUT THAT A DUMB GUY LIKE MUGS OUTWITTED PLASTIC MAN?
I'LL FIND HIM, CHIEF! EVEN IF IT WAS A FLUKE, THE EFFECT WOULD BE DEVASTATING! AND THERE'S MY REPUTATION TO THINK OF!
CHIEF BRANNER
WAS IT TOUGH, PLAS? ANY IDEA WHERE TO ROUND UP THAT ROUNDER?
ER, YES, THERE IS, WOOZY! BUT YOU HAD BETTER STAY OUT OF IT! MUGS IS A DANGEROUS CHARACTER WHEN CORNERED!
CHIEF BRANNER
AW, PLAS, YOU KNOW I'M NO SOFTY! LEMME TAKE ANOTHER CRACK AT THAT VANISHING VAGABOND!
WEL-L-L, IF YOU INSIST! WE GOT A TIP MUGS MIGHT BE AROUND THE WATERWORKS LAGOON IN CENTER PARK, BUT I CAN'T GO THERE NOW!
SAY NO MORE, PLAS! I--- WILD-MAN WINKS--- WILL PERSONALLY PATROL THE PREMISES WITH A PEELED EYE!
GOOD! THAT GETS WOOZY OUT OF HARM'S WAY WHILE I CONCENTRATE ON THE TYPE OF DIVES MUGS FREQUENTS!
SWOOSH!
MEANWHILE, MANY BLOCKS AWAY---
THE COAST IS CLEAR! I OUGHTA THANK PLASTIC MAN FOR NABBING MY MOB! NOW I DON'T HAVE TO SPLIT THIS LOOT WITH ANYBODY!
STEP RIGHT UP, FOLKS! RIGHT UP CLOSE, PLEASE, WHILE I DEMONSTRATE THE WONDERS IN THIS LITTLE BOTTLE!
NOW, WATCH CLOSELY, FRIENDS! FOR THE INSIGNIFICANT SUM OF ONLY A PALTRY FIVE DOLLARS...
ULP! FIVE DOLLARS!
?
?
ZIP!
ZIP!
SWISH!
WHIZZ!

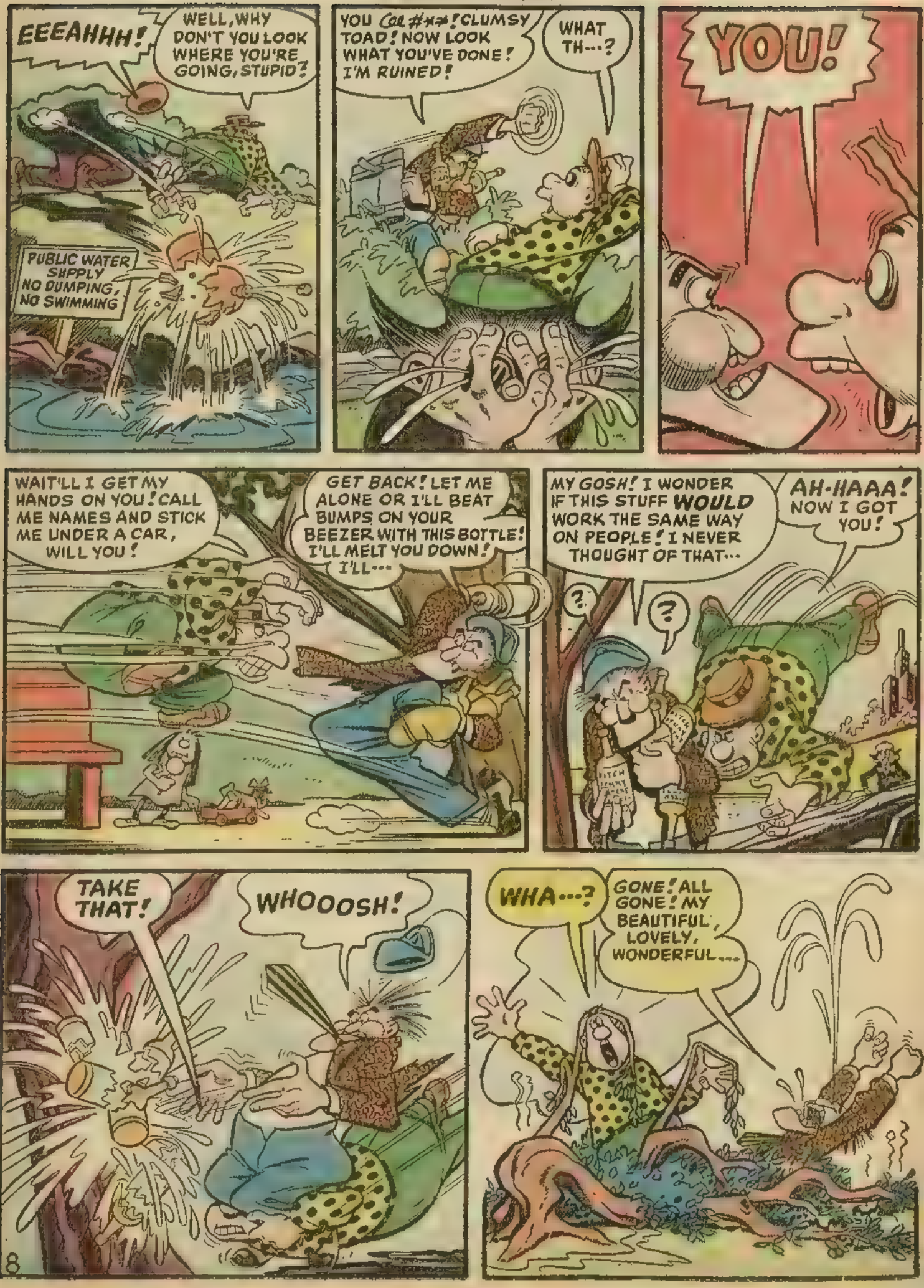

WELL, IF IT AIN'T MY OLD PAL, PITCH PENNY!
MUGS MERKLE, AS I LIVE AND THIEVE! WHO YUH DOIN' THESE DAYS?
THE LANDLORD, MOSTLY! HOW'S WITH YOU?
IF BUSINESS GETS ANY WORSE, I MIGHT EVEN HAVE TO WORK!
NOW WHAT IN THE WORLD IS THIS BOTTLED STUFF? WHAT'S THIS GUNK, PITCH? SWAMP WATER AND CRANK-CASE OIL LIKE THAT COUGH SYRUP YUH HAD?
NAW! IT'S LEGITIMATE... AND THAT'S WHY MY HEART AIN'T IN IT!
PITCH PENNY'S PATENT PLASTICIZER
IT'S JUST SOME KINDA STUFF THAT TURNS WOOD AND IRON AND JUNK LIKE THAT INTO RUBBER!
OH, IS THAT ALL IT... AWRRK!
YUH MEAN THIS STUFF'LL TURN AN IRON SAFE INTO RUBBER SO ALL YUH GOTTA DO IS STRETCH THE DOOR OPEN?
WELL, SURE! I NEVER TRIED IT ON A SAFE BUT IT SURE WILTED A COPPER'S GUN LAST WEEK!
I'LL TAKE IT... I'LL TAKE IT! YUH GOT ANY MORE? MAKE UP SOME!
ABOUT A GALLON LEFT AT HOME, I GUESS! BUT I CAN'T MAKE UP ANY MORE! THIS WAS KIND OF AN ACCIDENT, YOU MIGHT SAY...
I WAS GONNA SELL IT FOR A COLD CURE... BUT THIS IS WHAT I GOT! I DUNNO WHAT'S IN IT!
NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST YOU, OL' PAL, BUT LET'S SEE IT WORK ONCE!
PITCH PENNY'S PATENT

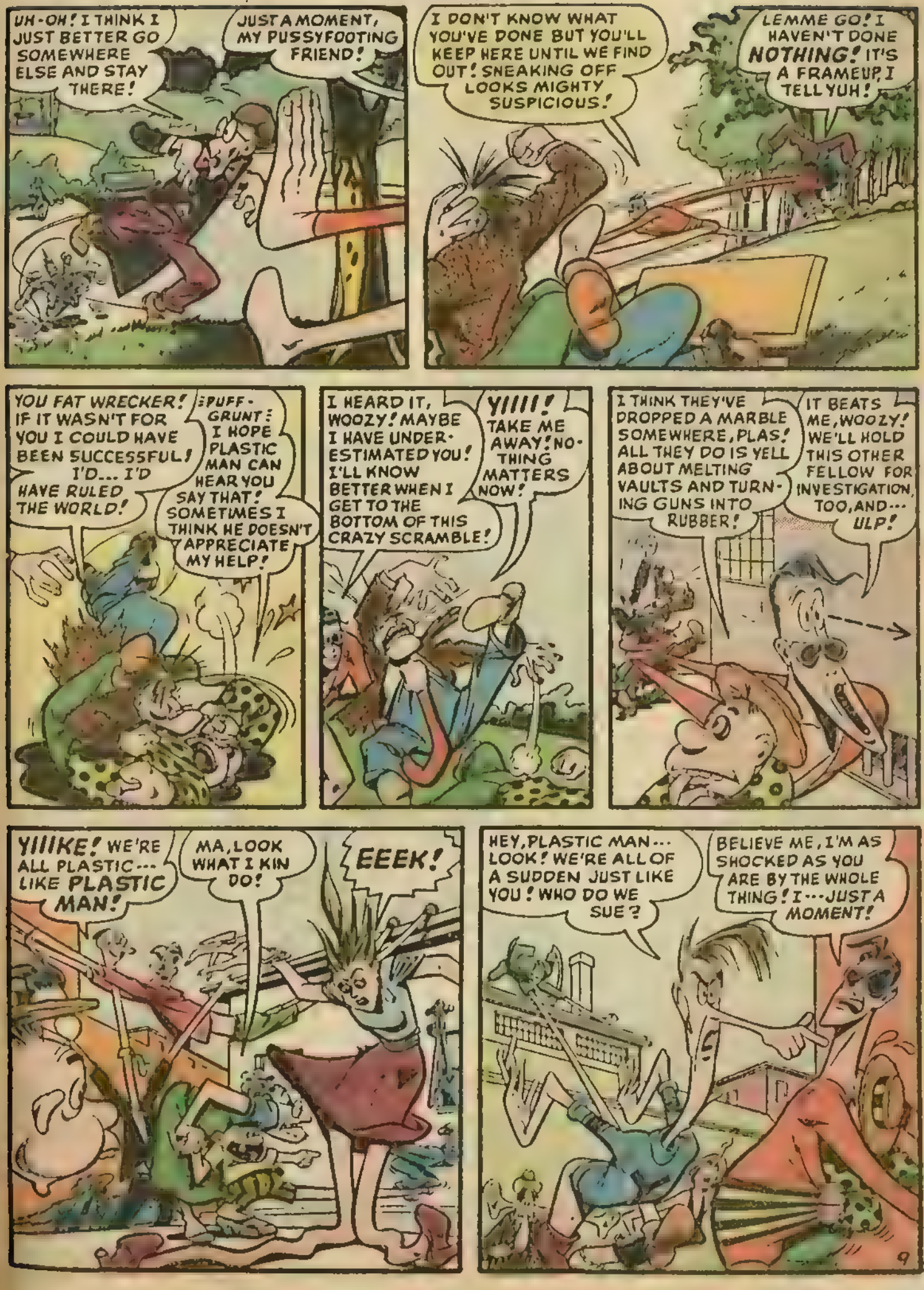

OH, SURE! ONLY YOU BETTER GET READY TO RUN!
RUN? WHY?
BECAUSE WHEN THAT WATER PRESSURE BUSTS THE RUBBER HYDRANT, SOMEBODY'S GONNA GET WET!
EEEOWW! IT DOES IT... IT DOES IT... IT DOES IT!


GET YOUR GALLON AND MEET ME AT THE WATERWORKS LAGOON IN CENTER PARK! THAT'S GOOD AND PRIVATE AND I'M KINDA HOT RIGHT NOW!
I'LL HAVE IT THERE IN HALF AN HOUR! JUST BE SURE YOU GOT REAL DOUGH--AND NOT THAT STUFF YOU USED TO PRINT!
WHAT A DEAL! THERE ISN'T A VAULT IN TOWN THAT'LL KEEP ME OUT NOW! AND IF THE COPS BOTHER ME, I'LL MELT THEIR GUNS AND THEIR SQUAD CARS, TOO!
SPLAT!
MEANWHILE...
MUGS MERKLE WOULD BE A GOOD GUY FOR THE JOB BUT NOBODY'S SEEN HIM FER WEEKS!
AN' NOBODY KNOWS WHERE HIS MOB IS HIDIN' OUT NOWADAYS!


IF I COULD GET MY PAWS ON DAT MUGS MERKLE RAT...!
YEAH! PLENTY O' GUYS ARE LAYIN' FOR THAT CHISELER BUT HE'S HIDIN' OUT SOMEWHERE!
ART MUSEUM
ABSTRACT
AN' I SAYS TO BERTHA, I SAYS, HAS ANYBODY SEEN MUGSY MERKLE LATELY? AN' SHE SAYS, NOT FER AGES, DEARIE!
WHO, MUGS? NAW! I THINK SOMEBODY LOWERED THE BOOM ON MUGS!

WELL, THAT'S THAT! NONE OF MUGS' OLD ASSOCIATES HAVE SEEN HIM RECENTLY! I'D BETTER PULL WOOZY OFF HIS LONELY BEAT AND TRY SOME NEW TACTIC!
NO RIDERS
HMM! DID SOMEBODY SAY LONELY?
♪ TWEET ♪ TWEEOOO!
HI-YUH, BABE!
DAILY
HOW WOULD YOU LIKE DINNER ON THE VAN ASTORBILT ROOF, WITH CAVIAR, CHAMPAGNE, BREAST OF GUINEA HEN UNDER GLASS?
ULP!
DAILY
OOO, YOU BIG, STRONG, HANDSOME HUNK OF MAN, YOU! BUT CAN YOU AFFORD A GORGEOUS DINNER LIKE THAT FOR JUST LITTLE ME?
WELL, NO...
BUT I GOT ENOUGH FOR TWO HAMBURGERS AT NICK'S DINER, HONEY!
DINER? WHY, YOU OVER-STUFFED OAF! DO YOU THINK I'M THE KIND OF A GIRL WHO'D GO OUT WITH A STRANGER?
DAILY PRESS
YEP! WE ALREADY ESTABLISHED THAT! NOW WE'RE DICKERING ON COSTS!
Cee#**!?~! WOMEN ARE ABSOLUTELY UNPREDICTABLE!
HEY!
OOF!
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY NO DUMPING NO SWIMMING
7

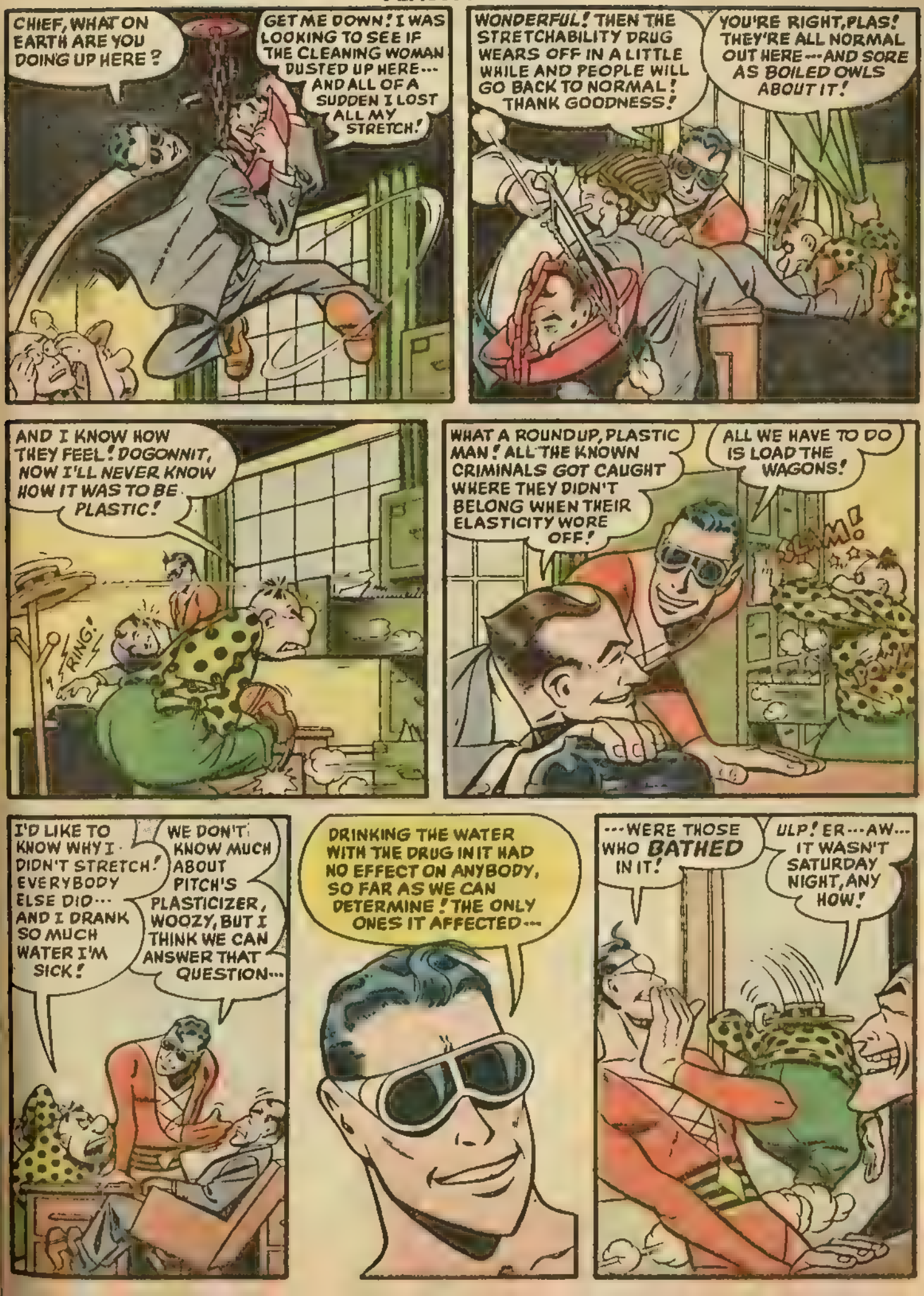

EEEAHHH!
WELL, WHY DON'T YOU LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, STUPID?
PUBLIC WATER SUPPLY NO DUMPING, NO SWIMMING
YOU Col #x≠! CLUMSY TOAD! NOW LOOK WHAT YOU'VE DONE! I'M RUINED!
WHAT TH---?
YOU!
WAIT'LL I GET MY HANDS ON YOU! CALL ME NAMES AND STICK ME UNDER A CAR, WILL YOU!
GET BACK! LET ME ALONE OR I'LL BEAT BUMPS ON YOUR BEEZER WITH THIS BOTTLE! I'LL MELT YOU DOWN! I'LL---
MY GOSH! I WONDER IF THIS STUFF WOULD WORK THE SAME WAY ON PEOPLE! I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT...
AH-HAAA! NOW I GOT YOU!
?
?
TAKE THAT!
WHOOOSH!
WHA---?
GONE! ALL GONE! MY BEAUTIFUL, LOVELY, WONDERFUL...


UH-OH! I THINK I JUST BETTER GO SOMEWHERE ELSE AND STAY THERE!
JUST A MOMENT, MY PUSSYFOOTING FRIEND!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'VE DONE BUT YOU'LL KEEP HERE UNTIL WE FIND OUT! SNEAKING OFF LOOKS MIGHTY SUSPICIOUS!
LEMME GO! I HAVEN'T DONE NOTHING! IT'S A FRAMEUP, I TELL YUH!
YOU FAT WRECKER! IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU I COULD HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFUL! I'D... I'D HAVE RULED THE WORLD!
:PUFF-GRUNT: I HOPE PLASTIC MAN CAN HEAR YOU SAY THAT! SOMETIMES I THINK HE DOESN'T APPRECIATE MY HELP!
I HEARD IT, WOOZY! MAYBE I HAVE UNDERESTIMATED YOU! I'LL KNOW BETTER WHEN I GET TO THE BOTTOM OF THIS CRAZY SCRAMBLE!
YIIII! TAKE ME AWAY! NOTHING MATTERS NOW!
I THINK THEY'VE DROPPED A MARBLE SOMEWHERE, PLAS! ALL THEY DO IS YELL ABOUT MELTING VAULTS AND TURNING GUNS INTO RUBBER!
IT BEATS ME, WOOZY! WE'LL HOLD THIS OTHER FELLOW FOR INVESTIGATION, TOO, AND... ULP!
YIIIKE! WE'RE ALL PLASTIC... LIKE PLASTIC MAN!
MA, LOOK WHAT I KIN DO!
EEEK!
HEY, PLASTIC MAN... LOOK! WE'RE ALL OF A SUDDEN JUST LIKE YOU! WHO DO WE SUE?
BELIEVE ME, I'M AS SHOCKED AS YOU ARE BY THE WHOLE THING! I... JUST A MOMENT!

YOU WERE YELLING ABOUT TURNING THINGS INTO RUBBER! LET'S HAVE THE STORY!
YIII! LET ME DOWN! I'LL TALK! I'LL TELL EVERYTHING!
COUGH! COUGH!
A FEW MOMENTS LATER...
AND THAT'S THE HONEST TRUTH, PLASTIC MAN! PITCH DON'T KNOW WHAT WAS IN THE STUFF AND IT GOT DUMPED IN THE LAGOON!
IN THE CITY WATER SUPPLY? THIS IS HORRIBLE! WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING RIGHT AWAY!
CHIEF, SOMETHING TERRIBLE'S HAPPENED! THE CITY WATER'S FULL OF STUFF THAT MAKES PEOPLE PLASTIC LIKE ME! YOU WON'T BELIEVE IT, BUT...
WHAT MAKES YOU THINK I WON'T BELIEVE IT?
GET OUT, WOOZY! THIS IS PRIVATE N.B.I. BUSINESS WE'RE DISCUSSING!
YOU, TOO? CHIEF, WE'VE GOT TO CUT OFF THE WATER, IMPORT PURE WATER AND TRY TO ANALYZE THE STUFF AND FIND AN ANTIDOTE!
EXCUSE ME, BUT I PASS HERE EVERY DAY AND I'VE OFTEN WONDERED WHAT WENT ON INSIDE! MIND IF I PEEK OVER YOUR SHOULDER?
YES, WE DO! GET OUT!
SHOULD I OR SHOULDN'T I? I COULD BE A REAL HELP TO PLAS IN HIS CRIME FIGHTING! BUT ON THE OTHER HAND...
I TELL YOU, CHIEF... WE'RE HEADING TOWARD MADNESS!
CHIEF BRANNER
PRIVATE
WATER
AW, T'HECK WITH IT! HERE GOES! SLURP-SLURP!
10

I WONDER HOW IT FEELS TO BE PLASTIC! OOF! OOF! WELL, WHY DON'T I STRETCH LIKE THE OTHERS DO?
MAYBE I DIDN'T DRINK ENOUGH! I'LL TRY··· EEOCK! THE DRINKING FOUNTAIN TURNED TO RUBBER··· BUT I DIDN'T!
WATER
BWAAA! I WANNA STRETCH, TOO!
COME ALONG, WOOZY! WE'VE GOT TO TRY TO HALT THIS UNLAWFULNESS THAT IS SWEEPING THE CITY!
ZOOM!
ULP! DID YOU SAY UNLAWFULNESS?
THIS IS ONLY THE FIRST STAGE! THE TROUBLE WILL COME WHEN THEY REALLY GET STARTED!
CELL BLOCK 6
I DON'T UNDERSTAND IT, BUT WHO CARES? I'M LEAVIN'!
OH, NO YOU AREN'T, LOUIE! SIT DOWN AND BEHAVE YOURSELF OR I'LL SEND YOU TO THE RUG FACTORY!
YUKKK! NO, NOT THAT! ANYTHING BUT THAT!
GUARD
CORY STORY
GET DOWN TO THE SEVENTH NATIONAL, PLASTIC MAN! SOMEBODY'S JUST WRIGGLED THROUGH THE KEYHOLE IN THE VAULT DOOR!
ULP! RIGHT AWAY, CHIEF! COME ALONG, WOOZY!
FBI

ONE SIDE, PLEASE! LET US THROUGH···
WE WANNA GO ALONG!
WE WANNA WATCH YOU OPERATE SO WE CAN BE PLASTIC CRIME FIGHTERS, TOO!
WE'RE AS GOOD AS YOU ARE NOW!
NEVER MIND, PLASTIC MAN! HE LEFT AGAIN WHEN HE FOUND HE COULDN'T SQUEEZE MONEY OUT THROUGH THE CRACK IN THE DOOR!
VAULT
PRESIDENT
IF THIS KEEPS ON YOU'LL HAVE TO REDESIGN THE WHOLE BANK!
SOMETHING MUST BE DONE··· BUT WHAT?
UB
BLUB
BLUB
BLLLP! IT'S NO USE! I'VE DRUNK GALLONS OF CITY WATER AND STILL I CAN'T STRETCH!
HOLD EVERY-THING! HERE COMES THE POLICE CHEMIST, ALL EXCITED!
WE FOUND TRACES OF A RARE SUB-STANCE IN THE WATER, PLASTIC, BUT IT DISAPPEARED BEFORE WE COULD ANALYZE IT! NOW IT'S ALL GONE!
HOORAY! MAYBE THE STUFF EVAPO-RATES IN A LITTLE WHILE! LET'S CHECK WITH THE CHIEF!
CHIEF! WE'VE GOT GOOD NEWS! CHIEF, WHERE ARE YOU?
HAL-LP!
GLUG-GUG!
HALP!
ULP!
YEEEK! HE'S BLOWN HIS TOP!


CHIEF, WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU DOING UP HERE?
GET ME DOWN! I WAS LOOKING TO SEE IF THE CLEANING WOMAN DUSTED UP HERE--- AND ALL OF A SUDDEN I LOST ALL MY STRETCH!
WONDERFUL! THEN THE STRETCHABILITY DRUG WEARS OFF IN A LITTLE WHILE AND PEOPLE WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL! THANK GOODNESS!
YOU'RE RIGHT, PLAS! THEY'RE ALL NORMAL OUT HERE--- AND SORE AS BOILED OWLS ABOUT IT!
AND I KNOW HOW THEY FEEL! DOGONNIT, NOW I'LL NEVER KNOW HOW IT WAS TO BE PLASTIC!
RING!
WHAT A ROUNDUP, PLASTIC MAN! ALL THE KNOWN CRIMINALS GOT CAUGHT WHERE THEY DIDN'T BELONG WHEN THEIR ELASTICITY WORE OFF!
ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS LOAD THE WAGONS!
SLAM!
I'D LIKE TO KNOW WHY I DIDN'T STRETCH! EVERYBODY ELSE DID--- AND I DRANK SO MUCH WATER I'M SICK!
WE DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT PITCH'S PLASTICIZER, WOOZY, BUT I THINK WE CAN ANSWER THAT QUESTION---
DRINKING THE WATER WITH THE DRUG IN IT HAD NO EFFECT ON ANYBODY, SO FAR AS WE CAN DETERMINE! THE ONLY ONES IT AFFECTED---
---WERE THOSE WHO BATHED IN IT!
ULP! ER--- AW--- IT WASN'T SATURDAY NIGHT, ANY HOW!

LIGHT FINGERS

THERE were three of the gang at the railroad station, and those three were—Eperon, the boss himself; Muscle Moggs, his strongarm lieutenant; and Shippard, the disbarred lawyer who figured the angles. In Eperon's pocket was a snapshot of the gaunt-faced, red-haired man they were to meet—Lifter, prince of pickpockets, who had agreed to come halfway across the world and join the Eperon mob for a new and important raid on the town's wealthiest citizens.

"There he is, boss," muttered Shippard as a gaunt-faced passenger left the train. But next moment all three stared as another passenger, the exact duplicate of the first in appearance, also issued from the train, brushed quickly against his twin, and then walked toward them, something half-hidden in his grasp.

Muscle stepped forward to meet this man. "You're Lifter," he said.

"You seem to know that," remarked the gaunt-faced one.

"Because I saw you jostle your duplicate yonder. Who's he, and what did you pick his pocket for?"

"For something that will tell us who he is. I take it you're the Eperon bunch. Look at this."

He held out the wallet in his hand. Eperon snatched it and flipped it open.

"So!" he growled, and all glanced quickly at the identification card inside—it bore the name of Brace and the signature of the head of the F. B. I.

That explained everything, thought Eperon hurriedly. Brace was the F B I genius whose talent for make-up and impersonation made him the terror of all criminals. Apparently he had heard a rumor of Lifter's errand, and had disguised himself as Lifter. It would have worked, had not Lifter, himself, picked Brace's pocket of this evidence that unmasked the plan.

"I'll keep in the background," whispered Lifter to Eperon. "You meet Brace, pretend to believe he's Lifter. Then—"

The second gaunt-faced man approached, smiling and offered his hand. Eperon managed an answering smirk, shook hands, and introduced his lieutenants. "Come on, Lifter," said Eperon. "Our car's parked over there. When we're inside, we'll tell you the setup."

"Swell," said the newcomer, and Muscle stepped close to his side, ready to strike at the first false move.

But there were no false moves. The party left the railroad station quietly, and reached the car. Shippard pulled open the door. Inside, in the back seat, sat the counterpart of their gaunt-faced companion.

"Hello," he grinned. "Nice makeup you have on, Brace. You even look like me, in a silly way."

"What's all this about?" growled the other, but at that moment Muscle's powerful hand shoved him violently into the car. Muscle got in beside the prisoner, pointing a gun. Shippard took the wheel, and Eperon, seated beside Shippard, spoke to the captive.

"Brace," he said, "this is what gives you away." And he held out the wallet with the F. B. I. identification.

"Why do you call me Brace?" demanded the terrified man. "I'm Lifter. If you'll just let me prove—"

"Quiet, you rat, there's a cop just passing," growled Muscle.

"Drive to the apartment, Shippard," ordered Eperon.

They did so. Again the prisoner tried to speak, and again Muscle gruffly threatened him into silence. Inside the apartment, Eperon ordered them into the bathroom.

"Scrub that makeup from his face," Eperon commanded. "Let's see what Brace looks like before we rub him out."

Muscle and Shippard scrubbed and scrubbed. They looked. The gaunt face was a little cleaner than before—that was all.

"Let me explain," said the other newcomer, the man they called Lifter. "He isn't Brace. I am."

"You!" roared Eperon. "But you picked this wallet out of his pocket."

"I pretended to. It was my wallet and my identification. I shifted suspicion to him after I got wind of his joining you. That was the easiest way to find my way into this hideout of yours."

"You'll never live to get out again," blustered Muscle.

The real Brace grinned. "I carried a radio transmitter with me, to call the police to follow. I figure they'll be here in about five seconds. Suppose we count. One—two—three—"

On the fourth second, the police stormed in to seize Eperon and his lawbreaking lieutenants.

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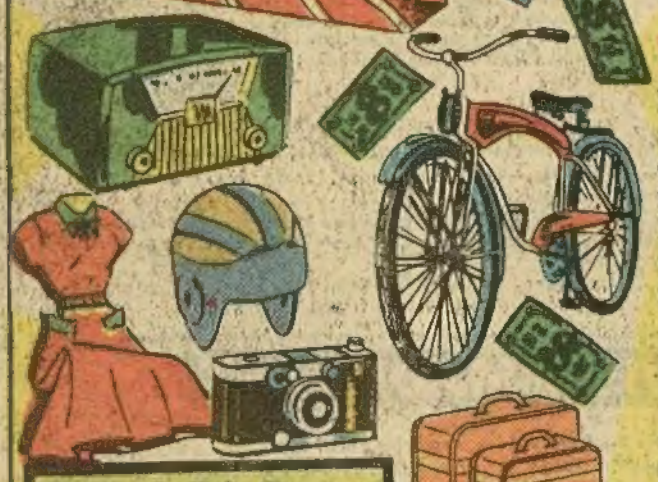

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